

# **POLICY / COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

**MAY 5, 2008**

**Oliver Administration Building**

## **Present**

**Subcommittee: Marjorie McBride, Chair, Diana Campbell, Karen Lynch and John Saviano**

**School Committee and Administration: William O'Dell (6:09), Edward Mara and Melinda Thies (6:06)**

**Guests: Pam Staeger (Bristol Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force)**

**Marjorie McBride called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.**

## **Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION: Karen Lynch motioned to approve the minutes to the April 7, 2008 meeting; Diana Campbell seconded; the motion passed by a vote of 4 to 0.**

## **Equal Opportunity Employment – Policy GBA**

**Routine reaffirmation of this policy is required.**

**MOTION: Diana Campbell motioned to recommend this policy go to the full School Committee to be ratified. Karen Lynch seconded; the**

**motion passed unanimously.**

## **Student / Parent Handbooks**

### **Issues**

#### **Revamping writing style of Kickemuit's**

**Melinda is working with the school administrators to lose the subjective tone and to combine the three documents into one, using the same template as Mt. Hope's.**

#### **Consequences for smoking infractions at Kickemuit**

**The SIT Team made some recommendations to the Committee (attached) focusing on a more therapeutic approach rather than punitive. Bill O'Dell raised concern over requiring counseling; there are two different kinds—1) this is why what you are doing is bad; and 2) why are you doing what you are doing, this one he feels is invasive. All agreed that the first type, an educational focus, is appropriate.**

**After discussion the group agreed to the following changes:**

- First Offense: change "Counseling services provided by a Student Assistance Counselor, if available" to "Referral to a substance abuse education program".**
- Second Offense: change that same line to "Required participation in a substance abuse education program"**

- **Third Offense:** change second line to “Readmit meeting with a parent/guardian and substance abuse educator,” and omit the last line.

**MOTION:** Diana Campbell motioned to make the above changes to Policy JG. John Saviano seconded; the motion passed by a vote of 4 to 0.

Pam Staeger commented that misuse of prescription drugs is becoming more prevalent.

## **Electronic Devices**

### **Comments:**

- **Melinda Thies--SIT Team** would like permission for use in common areas (cafeteria and hallways) and at the discretion of teachers in their own classrooms; at Kickemuit they are confiscated.
- **Diana Campbell--student recommendations** should be recognized, perhaps a compromise to allow in common areas and in art class and the library at the teachers’ discretion.
- **John Saviano—cell phone use** at the high school is not a problem; school administrators should be given managerial rights; student council needs to feel they are being given a fair shake; the teacher and student survey indicated teachers were 50/50 on Ipod use and

**hats and hoods, all felt they should have the discretion.**

- Marjorie McBride—cell phone use at the high school is a problem; disagrees with John’s views on the student council; “the buck stops here.”**
- Karen Lynch—need more details on why Barrington revoked their more liberal policy on electronic devices use; just because students approach the Committee properly, doesn’t mean approval must be given.**
- Ed Mara – it is good to see the Student Council come alive.**

**Marj McBride would like the issue discussed in public at the May 19th School Committee meeting and recommendations from the SIT team.**

### **Grade requirements for participation in extra curricular activities**

**Melinda has discussed this with the Mt. Hope SIT Team; they are in favor of developing the intervention system for the first year, with mandated attendance at an academic study hall; not at the discretion of the coach, but school wide; and then gradually build more stringent requirements from there; the connectiveness of everyone in the community is important. The group was emphatically split between enforcing a no failures rule immediately, and a progressive approach to raising the bar to full implementation and providing academic support. High School administration agrees that the bar has to be raised but the concern is how it is rolled out. For clarification Ed Mara explained the SIT Team makes school policy which cannot override or be in conflict with School Committee policy;**

**their Article 31 funds must be used to achieve their goals.**

### **Hats and Hoods**

**All agreed that safety is the foremost concern. Karen Lynch is against hoods, and unsure on hats. Marj McBride feels both hats and hoods should not be allowed. Karen Lynch and Diana Campbell would like to hear the SIT team's recommendation. Melinda Thies feels implementation must be balanced.**

**Karen Lynch left the meeting at 7:17 PM.**

### **Policy Review List**

**Procurement Policies: Ed and Jane will work on these three policies over the summer; they will be combined into one.**

**Student Safety: Ed and Andrew are researching; Ed is leaning toward a general statement, such as "Provide a safe environment for all students at every level."**

### **Next Meeting**

**June 2, 2008, 6:00 PM at Oliver.**

## **Adjournment**

**At 7:32 PM, Diana Campbell motioned to adjourn; John Saviano seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**/ca**